

S-E-C-R-E-T

20 September 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Bureau Chiefs

FROM: Chief, FBIS

SUBJECT: Letter of Information

GENERAL

1. South Vietnamese Crisis: Saigon Bureau personnel, covering the Vietnamese Government crisis from Saigon radio, press agency, and newspaper sources, performed their duties in excellent fashion despite civil disorders, stringent security measures, and strained U.S.-Vietnamese relations. Okinawa Bureau personnel rendered valuable assistance by maintaining an open overnight watch on Radio Saigon. The first high-precedence message from Saigon Bureau reporting imposition of martial law was received in Washington in 17 minutes. [redacted]

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2. Chinese Communist Articles: Two joint Peking People's Daily-Red Flag articles commenting on the 14 July open letter of the CPSU Central Committee were promptly supplied by the West Coast and Okinawa Bureaus, carried in full by the Wire Service, and, at White House request, published as Daily Report supplements on 6 and 13 September for immediate delivery to the President. [redacted]

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3. White House Requests: There has been an increasing number of requests from the White House in recent months for advance copies of individual statements by Khrushchev and De Gaulle, authoritative material on the Sino-Soviet polemic, special memoranda, reaction reports, and supplements. In almost every case it has been necessary to arrange for special editorial and typist staffing, reproduction, and delivery usually on short notice. Means of most efficiently responding to these requests is under study. FBIS success to date is due in large measure to the excellent work of the field bureaus, and serves to point up the great value of close coordination between the field and Headquarters including prompt and full reporting of field coverage

Group 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

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plans, broadcast content, and processing progress. Bureaus are reminded that urgent requests from the "highest level", whether contained in administrative or editorial messages, should be met without delay regardless of the day or hour. "Highest level" in FBIS usage always means the President of the United States. [redacted]

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4. Service to VOA: To better meet Voice of America News Desk requirements, FBIS is seeking to include more Latin American and African items on the Wire Service. In addition, VOA messengers are now picking up discards of material from these areas more than once a day, and VOA has undertaken to provide a target list of subjects in which it is especially interested. [redacted]

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5. Service to the Director: Copies of the Radio Propaganda Branch's 3 August Survey, all Trends since 31 July, and the test ban reaction report of 29 July were requested by the office of the DD/I for use of the Director of Central Intelligence in testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee holding hearings on the test ban treaty. [redacted]

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6. Meeting on Sino-Soviet Affairs: RPB represented FBIS at a Sino-Soviet military seminar attended by representatives from organization components and the State Department. Reports on the political-military implications of recent revelations in the Sino-Soviet dispute were discussed at the meeting. [redacted]

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7. Radio Propaganda Reports: [redacted]

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a. The ninth report in the series on Cuban media, issued as CD.232, discussed Castro's comments in his 26 July anniversary speech on revolution, the United States, and the Cuban economy, treatment of these subjects in surrounding propaganda, and Moscow and Peking handling of the anniversary.

b. "Indications of Soviet Military Opposition to the Test Ban Treaty," CD.233, compared RED STAR's virtual silence on the test ban treaty with PRAVDA's enthusiastic reception, and discussed Malinovskiy's Navy Day Order of the Day and TASS domestic service messages instructing the provincial press first to cancel, then to publish, Malinovskiy's statement.

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c. The fifth in the series on public appearances of Soviet leaders was issued as RS.63.

8. Commendation: Mr. Chester Cooper, Special Assistant to the DD/I, expressed appreciation for RS.62, "Main Trends of CPR Propaganda on Domestic Issues," which surveyed Chinese Communist propaganda on subjects of internal significance from January through June of this year. The report also drew complimentary comment from other consumers. [REDACTED]

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9. Propaganda Analysis Items on the Wire: Propaganda analyses carried by the Wire Service consisted of a review of Soviet press counterattacks against Chinese efforts to disrupt the Soviet-led bloc economic integration program, as well as indications of Czech and East German sensitivity to Chinese thrusts; a status report on Radio Moscow's compliance with the longstanding agreement whereby it is supposed to periodically broadcast programs recorded in Peking; and a discussion of the implications of Prague's withdrawal of NCNA's license to operate in Czechoslovakia. [REDACTED]

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10. Washington Freedom March: An all-male staff carried on near-normal operations Wednesday, 28 August, the day of the Freedom March on Washington. Production of extra stencils by Production Unit and secretarial personnel Monday and Tuesday made it possible to publish a 234-page Daily Report on the day of the demonstration despite the fact that Headquarters was in a restricted traffic zone. As it developed, no one reported difficulty getting to or from work. [REDACTED]

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11. Editorial Reviews: Major Far East Daily Report recipients were asked to comment on the review of the local press produced by the Saigon Bureau and the review of Chinese Communist regional broadcasts produced by the Okinawa Bureau. Most of those responding felt that these two editorial reports were valuable and should be continued. [REDACTED]

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12. Press Scrutiny: In August 90 percent of the Daily Report was devoted to broadcast material and 10 percent to press scrutiny. [REDACTED]

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13. Congressional Recipients: Upon request, the unrestricted Daily Report is now given to Senators Thomas McIntyre of New Hampshire and Jack Miller of Iowa, both of whom are members of the Government Operations Committee. [REDACTED]

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14. Bulk Deliveries: While USIA has agreed to accept bulk delivery of the Daily Report on behalf of its overseas posts, the Department of State has not, contrary to what was reported in the August Letter of Information. The organization continues to bear responsibility for sending the Daily Report to individual State Department addresses abroad.

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15. Semiautomated Daily Report Production: Portions of the Cuban section of the Latin America Daily Report were produced for the first time on 12 and 13 September with the prototype Flexowriter, tape-conversion, mark-sensing equipment utilizing incoming teletype tapes. While printing quality left something to be desired, it was comparable with that achieved in the first days of the original Flexowriter experiment. Output and quality are expected to improve as editors and typists perfect technique and as the Printing Services Division familiarizes itself with printing from offset mats.

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16. Economic Abstracts: The German Bureau began wirefiling appropriate East German radio items to London for inclusion in the London Bureau Economic Abstract file thereby reducing duplication of economic reportage.

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17. Lateral Services: Upon request, VOA Munich began receiving Moscow TASS international service Russian materials from the London Bureau, and East European materials from the Austrian Bureau. Also upon request, the Austrian Bureau began mailing items processed from bloc sources reporting statements by U.S. private citizens visiting communist countries to the Legal Attache, American Embassy, Bern, via the American Embassy, Vienna.

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18. War Plans: Draft comments of the War Plans Staff and other interested offices on FBIS field bureau war plans, submitted to WPS in June 1962, were finally received and are currently being studied before suggestions are sent to the field.

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#### FIELD OPERATIONS AND ENGINEERING

19. Coverage Schedules: Field bureaus are encouraged to check FBIS Coverage Schedules periodically and to report discrepancies with corrections to the Field Operations Staff.

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20. Communist Broadcasting: The international broadcasting effort of communist bloc countries, not including Cuba, reached 4,061 hours per week on 30 June 1963 compared to 3,630 hours on 30 June 1962, an increase of over 10%. [redacted]

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21. Relay to BBC: Administrative messages to London should bear the relay symbol "LD" and not "BBC". The London Bureau screens administrative messages and passes on only that information of interest to the BBC. [redacted]

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22. Automatic Relay: The German Bureau introduced a system permitting automatic relay of Mediterranean Bureau teletype tapes to the German Monitoring Service. Mediterranean Bureau operators punch a special call-out code in the appropriate tapes which activates the teletype transmitter on the German Bureau circuit to Cologne. [redacted]

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23. Construction Projects: Tokyo Bureau's new antenna system atop the American Embassy Annex roof was completed in August. Construction of a new warehouse at the Mediterranean Bureau was 65% completed at the end of the month. [redacted]

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#### ADMINISTRATION

24. Health Benefits Program: Information on the open season for the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program has been dispatched to all bureaus. All changes must be in Headquarters by 11 October 1963. [redacted]

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25. Regulatory Issuances: The following regulatory issuances were disseminated: [redacted]

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### EDITORIAL

Abbreviations: Abbreviations of the names of organizations such as political parties may be used to avoid superfluous repetition if the abbreviation is given in an editorial note when the full name of the organization first appears in an item. Conversely, whenever abbreviations, other than those commonly used throughout FBIS publications, are used exclusively in an item, an editorial note should give the correct full name of the organization. When the name of the organization is not known, this also should be indicated.

### ADMINISTRATION

1. Annual Party: For the information of personnel who may be in U.S. travel or leave status at the time, the annual FBIS Party will be held at the Washington Press Club 30 November. Those desiring reservations should contact

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2. New Employees

Assignment

Typist, Editorial Branch

STAT

3. Reassignments

From

To

Editor  
East Coast Bureau

Editor  
Panama Bureau

STAT

Chief  
German Bureau

Chief  
Panama Bureau

Intel Asst, Liaison &  
Requirements Staff

Librarian, TIU,  
Editorial Branch

Editor  
Editorial Branch

Editor  
Mediterranean Bureau

Senior Editor  
Mediterranean Bureau

Senior Editor, ME/AF/WE/LA  
Sect., Editorial Branch

Watch Officer  
Mediterranean Bureau

Watch Officer  
West Coast Bureau

Watch Officer  
Tokyo Bureau

Engineer  
Panama Bureau

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4. Resignations



From

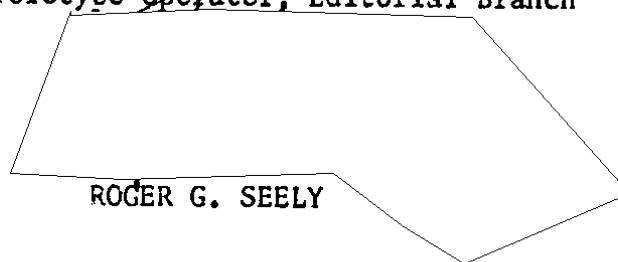
Monitor, West Coast Bureau

STAT

Radio Operator, East Coast Bureau

Teletype Operator, Editorial Branch

STAT



ROGER G. SEELY